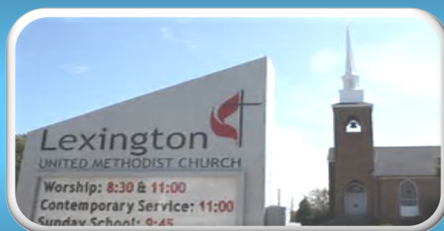




Lexington UMC
Household of Faith



Living God's Word~
Sharing God's Love

October
2020

Inside this
issue:



FROM OUR
PASTOR

A "DIFFERENT" CHANGE OF SEASONS

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During my numerous years growing up in the Midwest, I remember so fondly these Fall months of beauty, hard work, and abundance. Looking out daily over the full fields of the Midwest's agricultural landscape, October most typically would reveal scenes of tractors harvesting corn and beans ... trailers carrying harvested crops to the elevator for sale and/or storage ... along with remnants of dried corn stalks left in the fields for winter feeding by wild animals. In accompaniment with those daily scenes of "preparation for winter", there was always the constant whirr of the grain dryers as they spun the corn and the beans as thoroughly and efficiently as possible "in preparation" for winter storage in the silos and grain bins. Indeed, in the Midwest, the Fall season was most definitely a time of "preparation" ... preparation for winter ... for hibernation ... for rest ... for hunkering down.

In the life of the church, and most especially in the "cycle of seasons" in the United Methodist denomination, Fall is most definitely a season of preparation, but "preparation" of a different sort. Typically, according to the United Methodist calendar, the Fall season brings "preparation" for Charge Conference ... "preparation" for a Stewardship Campaign ... "preparation" for a Thanksgiving celebration ... and "preparation" for the Advent season. And while I'll set aside those discussions about Stewardship and Thanksgiving and Advent "in preparation" for our November and December Household of Faith issues, I do want to share with you some thoughts about our Charge Conference "preparation", most especially in regard to how that affects our upcoming year of shared ministry.

Lexington UMC's Charge Conference, 2020, is set for Sunday, November 1st. This celebratory gathering will take place in person, as set by the Columbia District Superintendent for "churches who have received new pastors this year", and it will begin at 2pm. In "preparation" for this annual gathering, your LUMC leaders and pastors have been preparing necessary and required reports pertaining to our attendance numbers, our financial status, our ongoing ministry opportunities, as well as our budgetary plans for 2021. Part of those "required" reports includes a list of Church Officers for the coming year. That "Nominations and Personnel Report" is the primary reason for my thoughts to you via this "Article from the Pastor".

You are probably already aware that the Nominations and Personnel Committee is the ONLY committee in the United Methodist denomination in which the Pastor is the Chairperson. While this "plan and process" works quite well in most seasons, it runs into multiple complications when that pastor is "new" to the church ... and most especially, when that pastor has been in contact with only church members who are constantly wearing masks due to a pandemic! So this is where I am asking for your help. Our Nominations and Personnel Committee will be meeting at the end of October to finalize our list of Church Officers and Leaders for 2021.

Between now and that time, I would request that you look over the current list of officers, check out which areas are in need of new leadership (many positions are on a 3 year service tenure), pray about where you might best serve the church with passion and purpose, and then let me know where you would like to serve!

(Continued...)



I am very excited about the steps we have been taking over the past 3 months to move forward, albeit slowly and carefully, in new ministries at LUMC... and I am encouraged that we can continue to move forward. But we need your help! If you are comfortable in serving the church in "your best capacity" in the coming year, AND you feel God tugging at your heart to give of your time and talents in a new way, please let me know! I would so welcome the opportunity to serve WITH you, as we continue to carry out Christ's mission and commission to this community, and ultimately, to the world.

I think that most of you would agree that we have been doing enough, "resting, hibernating, and hunkering down" over the past six months of quarantine and isolation ... and so ... in eager anticipation of moving forward once again in ministry together ... I look forward to hearing back from you - Pastor Kim 843-658-3659



LET'S STAY INFORMED!

As most of you know, positive Covid-19 cases are still being reported daily in our communities, in our schools, and yes, even in our churches. Despite the many and varied precautions practiced consistently in an attempt to avoid harm, Covid-19 is an extremely mysterious and inconsistent ailment which appears to NOT be going away any time soon!

Consequently, as we continue to address the struggles and the ravages of this disease, it is important to be reminded of some additional protocol outlined by our South Carolina United Methodist Conference, and offered as "best practices for responding to Covid-19 test results within the family of faith". The complete list of guidelines/practices is posted on the South Carolina United Methodist Conference website if you would like to view it directly:

- ✦ Upon being notified of a positive test, the church should determine ... everyone with whom the person directly interacted at the church; anything the infected person touched while at the church.
- ✦ Immediately close - for at least 72 hours - any facilities in which the infected person might have been.
- ✦ Notify everyone who came in direct contact with the person infected and recommend testing and voluntary self-quarantine until a negative test result has been obtained.
- ✦ Provide a courtesy notification to everyone else on the attendance list for the event. That should include advising that someone who attended has tested positive for Covid-19; reviewing what steps the church is taking; recommending that each person monitor themselves for symptoms; recommending testing if symptoms occur, and notifying the church of the results.
- ✦ Notify the district superintendent that the above protocol has been activated.
- ✦ Wait at least three days to determine whether any primary contacts test positive.

Please remember, everyone, that while we are most certainly responsible for ourselves first and foremost, we also are part of a family of faith. So please continue to act safely and responsibly as we deal with this ongoing health crisis, and let's help EACH OTHER to act in the best interest of ALL.



SOUTH CAROLINA UMC ANNUAL CONFERENCE TO GO "VIRTUAL"

On **Saturday, October 17th**, the 2020 South Carolina Annual Conference will convene as an all-virtual session at **2pm**. Hosted by the Florence District of the UMC and Cumberland UMC, this year's Annual Conference theme is:

"Seeking a More Excellent Way - Beyond the Bounds of Expectation".

LUMC has seven Annual Conference Representatives who have registered for this virtual Annual Conference. The SC Conference is not printing and mailing hard copy versions of the AC2020 Pre-Conference Packet nor the AC2020 Registration Packet. So lay and clergy members are encouraged to review these materials online well in advance of the Annual Conference to help facilitate the efficient use of time during the session itself.

For assistance in making this first ever virtual Annual Conference as positive an experience as possible, there are two separate Lay and Clergy Training Sessions available to all AC representatives. The dates of those sessions are: **October 14, 2020 at 6:30pm** and **October 17, 2020 at Noon**.

Please be in prayer for our LUMC Lay Representatives and Clergy as they navigate through the business, the decisions, the votes, and the discussions of Annual Conference 2020.



THE BLESSINGS CONTINUE THROUGH OCTOBER!!!



Throughout the month of October, LUMC will continue our worship series on Matthew 5 - The Beatitudes. If you have joined us on any Sunday of September, you would recall that in Matthew 5, Jesus is training us to live NOT in REACTION to our sin and guilt ... and NOT in DESPAIR of our weaknesses ... and NOT in DESPERATION given all the heartache around us ... and NOT in an attitude of CYNICISM and MALICE ... and NOT either in the practice of FOCUS on SELF.

Rather, Jesus is calling us to train our minds and emotions to live in RESPONSE to the realities inherent in the Kingdom of God - that is, simply, to live by FAITH and LOVE!

When Jesus came and began teaching his generation all about what is involved in a world ruled by GOD, not by a king nor an emperor nor a general, Jesus highlighted the beautiful word "blessed" ... which means ... happy and fortunate!

As we continue on through the month of October celebrating God's blessing of happiness in our lives, we will celebrate, simultaneously, the following family of faith blessings:



Oct. 4th - Matthew 5:7 - WORLDWIDE COMMUNION SUNDAY

Oct. 11th - Matthew 5:8 - Pastor Jim brings our Sunday message

October 18th - Matthew 5:9 - A Celebration of Peace

October 25th - Matthew 5:10 - Blessing of the Prayer Shawls

We hope you will join us for these very special Community of Faith worship celebrations - either in person or online.



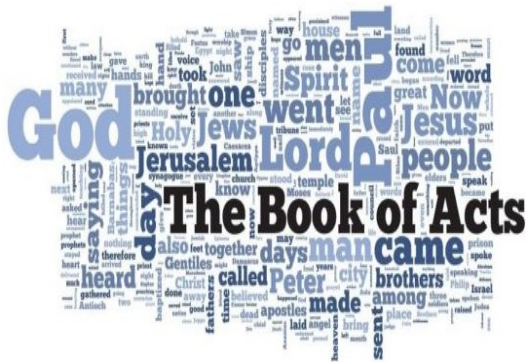
A SPECIAL MID-WEEK WORSHIP OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU!



Did you know that Lexington UMC offers a midweek worship opportunity? Every Wednesday at 6:30PM in the Ministry Center, we meet for Vespers ... a sunset evening prayer service in the Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Eastern Catholic, Anglican, and Lutheran liturgies of the canonical hours. The word "Vespers" comes from the Greek "hespera", and the Latin "vesper", meaning "evening". It is also referred to in the Anglican tradition as evening prayer or evensong. The term is also used in some Protestant denominations to describe evening services.

For our Vespers gathering at LUMC, casual attire is encouraged. Face coverings are required and social distancing is practiced. There is no limit on participants as we are meeting in the Ministry Center. Each Vespers gathering lasts approximately 30 minutes. Participants remain seated throughout the entire worship experience as we share in song, prayer, liturgy, and quiet reflection. Please join us for this wonderfully spiritual experience of re-focusing and re-centering.

ACTS STUDY CONTINUES THROUGH OCTOBER



Throughout the month of October, we will continue our "Becoming an ACT-ive Church Study, on Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week. Thus far as we have gathered, we have looked at the POWER of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, the GENEROSITY of the people who formulated the very first Church of Jesus Christ, as well as the ACCEPTANCE those Christian believers practiced toward all others.

In upcoming weeks, we will examine and discuss the CREATIVITY in ministry of the people of the ACTS church; we'll celebrate their PERSEVERANCE even in the face of persecution; we'll talk about

how the COURAGE of those earliest Christians can serve as a model for our own ministry efforts; and finally, we'll engage in a conversation about how the WITNESS of the ACTS church lives on to inspire and empower Christian believers still today!

We still have room in both classes for you to join us for the remainder of our Study. And you have two scheduling options - please join us on Tuesday afternoons at 3pm, or Thursday mornings at 10:30am. No books are required for this Study but please bring your favorite version of the Bible, along with a notebook ... accompanied by a willingness to share thoughts and ideas! Please join us!

HAS YOUR PET BEEN BLESSED?

In the Scriptures, the act of blessing means the "imparting of power or life". The person performing the blessing is mediating power from God and Christ Jesus to the person or creature receiving the blessing. To bless, thus, is more than just an expression of goodwill and caring. Rather, to bless is to impart God's power on another!

Annually, on or around October 4th, Christians worldwide celebrate the Feast of St. Francis with a Blessing of the Animals and additional prayers for creation. Not surprisingly, Catholicism has specific liturgies for the blessing of animals, which highlight creation and interdependence. But United Methodists also have a specific liturgy highlighting creation and mutual interdependence!

A Blessing of the Animals in many United Methodist congregations witnesses to God's love and care and concern for creation, as well as the Church's love and care and concern for creation. The blessing of each animal, by name, means that health, healing, and life are being mediated from God for the benefit of the animal in it's relationship with it's human partners. As we recognize our mutual interdependence with God's creatures, the Church's witness of stewardship of creation is strengthened.

Our Blessing of the Animals at LUMC will be celebrated on Sunday afternoon, **October 4th, 2020 at 4pm** in the back parking lot of our church facility. Please bring your pet either on a leash or crated. Each pet will be blessed individually by name. You are also invited to bring a folding/tailgate chair for your comfort. Masks are required for this outdoor service. In the event of rain, we will re-schedule for a date shortly after this designated Feast of St. Francis Day of Celebration!





BLESSING BOX UPDATE

We have lots of activity with our Blessing Boxes. They are filled twice weekly, when possible. We need the following:

- ♦ Non-perishable food items with pop tops (such as canned meats)
- ♦ Spaghetti or ravioli
- ♦ Individual packs of grits or oatmeal
- ♦ Individually packaged fruits
- ♦ Bottled water
- ♦ Any size baby diapers
- ♦ Baby wipes
- ♦ Personal hygiene items, etc.

Please bring these items to church and leave in the carts that are located in the Foyer of Wesley Hall or load the items into the Blessing Box.

SNACK SACK UPDATE

Our processes will change with our next delivery. All food items will arrive prepackaged for each student. There will be limited handling of these food items.

Our number of students fed per week will be **450 to 550** again this school year.



Our High School Program will **feed 850 to 900 students *per week***. The total students fed weekly will be **1,300** on the low end to **1,450** on the high side.

But, the cost of this program will increase by at least **25%**.

We need your monetary donations AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

Our monthly cost will be **\$12,000 or more**.

Currently, we have approximately **\$11,000** in our account.

Thank you for your continued support of this vital Ministry,

Rick Cunningham
803.414.2940 Text or Call
Rj_cunningham@yahoo.com Email





We will continue our lessons on the Beatitudes through the month of October. We will follow each week through Matthew 5:7-10.

Matthew 5:7 Blessed are the merciful

Matthew 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart

Matthew 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers

Matthew 5:10 Blessed are the persecuted

There has been an update to the Halloween festivities on October 25th.

Instead of a Fall Festival, we will have a *virtual* Halloween Scavenger Hunt. This is something you'll be able to do with your family in regards to your own level of precaution. You can look around your town for specific items that will be listed on the scavenger list, take pictures of the items, and send them in that night to rachael@lexumcsc.com. I will send out the list the week of the hunt.



Wear your Halloween costume and join us for our Trunk or Treat on Sunday, **October 25th from 5-6pm.** If you would like to participate by offering your trunk, please let me know so we can plan accordingly.

We will also have a paint your pumpkin contest!! You must have a painted pumpkin and turn them in by **Wednesday, October 21st** to be eligible to enter the contest. The winner will be shown and announced on **Sunday, October 25th** and will receive their choice of a \$10 Starbucks gift card or a \$10 Chick-fil-A gift card.

WE'RE BACK!

Children's Church is BACK! Join us during the 9am service to worship together in the nursery. We will walk together to Children's Church following the Word to the Children in morning worship. We will return to our families during the Offertory. While we are worshipping we will wear masks and practice social distancing.



Preschool Butter Braid Fundraiser!

Whether it's Thanksgiving, Christmas or a birthday, everyone loves getting gifts. Are you having trouble deciding what to get your loved ones this year? Do you need help coming up with the perfect gift? Well, the preschool parents are here to tell you exactly why you should get your family one or more of our delicious desserts.

All the proceeds go toward helping our preschool classes with arts, crafts and music supplies!

Everyone needs to eat!

There's a flavor for everyone!

All you do is thaw, let the dough rise, and bake.

It's that easy!



You'll probably get to eat some too!

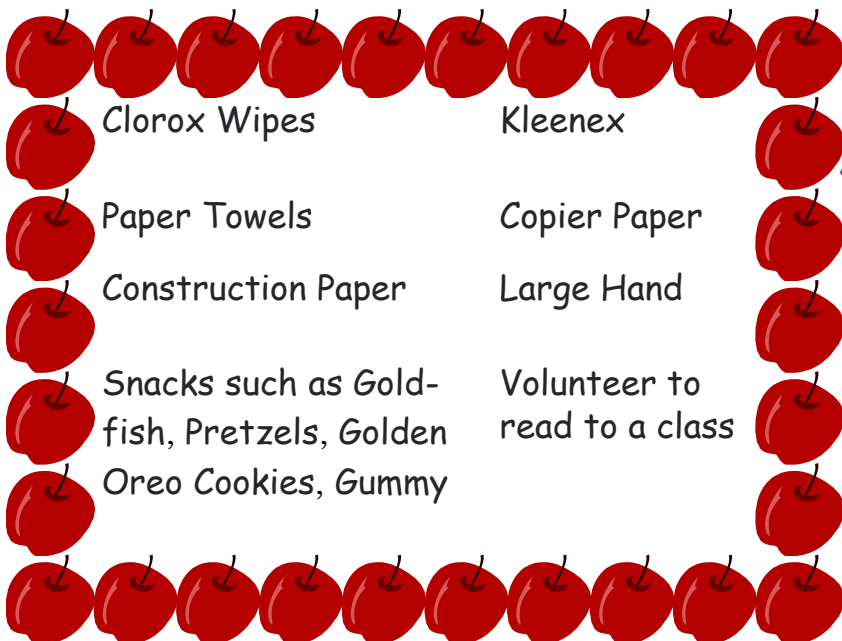
The Butter Braid Fundraiser begins Sunday, **October 18th** and **ends Tuesday November 3rd**. You can order and pay online by going to the Church website at www.lexumcsc.com and click on outreach and then preschool. Thank you for supporting this important ministry of the church.

Love, 48 small smiling faces!

Jenny Kennedy, Preschool Director

jenny@lexumcsc.com

Lexington United Methodist Preschool Ministry opened its doors to our students on September 8th. With this being an unusual year, your help is greatly needed and appreciated. You can



Clorox Wipes

Kleenex

Paper Towels

Copier Paper

Construction Paper

Large Hand

Snacks such as Gold-fish, Pretzels, Golden

Volunteer to read to a class

Oreo Cookies, Gummy

help by providing any of these items:

Financial donations to help sponsor a teacher (online select "**Preschool**" or notate the check).

Thank you **Julie Robinson** for your faithful monthly donation of \$200.00. With this donation, and others, we can continue to be the face of Jesus to the students, their families, and our community.

Congratulations to our 2020 Confirmands!

Bailey Gunter
William Hahne
Jessica Slapnik
Liam Stilwell
Wyatt Wilson
Wesley Bumgarner
Bradley Wicker
Vivian Smith
Miranda Graybill
Ethan Osborne
Edens Baker



These students confirmed their faith on Confirmation Sunday, September 27th, 2020.
We pray that God continues to bless them and walk with them
in their life of faith in high school and beyond.

*"Ask, and it will be given to you.
Seek, and you will find.
Knock, and the door will be opened to you."*

-Matthew 7:7

Wishing you satisfaction and fulfillment as God leads you to new opportunities in the years ahead;
Opportunities for growth, for learning, and for discovering His plan for your life. Congratulations.



A. L. George Circle
Annual Pecan Sale

Place your order NOW for the holidays!
Drop this order form in the offering plate.

Pecans will arrive early November.

Payment will be due at delivery.

All profits support missions.

Order:

_____ 16oz. pecan halves@ \$11

_____ 16oz. pecan pieces@ \$11

_____ 12oz. chocolate covered@ \$11

Name: _____

Phone: _____



HOLIDAY BASKET WISH LIST

\$10 GIFT CARD FOR TURKEY OR HAM
CANNED SWEET POTATOES
CANNED COLLARDS/TURNIPS
CANNED GREEN BEANS
STUFFING MIX
CRANBERRY SAUCE
CORNBREAD MIX
GRAVY MIX OR JAR
BROWNIE MIX

Drop Off Mon-Thurs, 10am-1pm
 At Our Donation Door
 216 Harmon Street, Lexington,
 SC 29072
 Questions? Email
 lauren@missionlexingtonsc.org

Holiday Meals for Neighbors

During November and December, we offer pre-packed holiday food bags to those we serve. Families may pick up a bag beginning November 1st which includes the essentials for a festive holiday dinner. Last year Mission Lexington gave out 1,040 holiday food bags. We ask you to consider donating again this year.

Donations will be accepted starting **October 1st** and will run through **December 7th**. Pre-pack a Holiday food bag, or simply donate items needed. Feel free to add a personal note or prayer for the family.

You will see on our meal wish list that we are asking for \$10 gift certificates for turkeys and hams this year, as we are tight on space.

F.A.I.T.H. Circle is Hosting a Virtual Run!

Get off your Zoom call, lace up your shoes, throw on your favorite LUMC shirt, and join us for a virtual 5k to get moving! We will come "together" in spirit... in our homes, neighborhoods, or parks to run or walk a 5k.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lumc-umw-move-together-for-missions-virtual-5k-tickets-121048139243>

During the week of **October 18th - 25th**, you can walk a little everyday in your neighborhood or run the whole thing on your favorite trail, whatever you choose....just get moving! As you complete your run or walk, please let us know by posting a picture to our community Facebook page.

Your paid Eventbrite registration, a suggested donation of \$25 per household, will go towards UMW missions and also make you eligible for a chance to win some fun prizes! We hope you can join us!



Need to de-clutter? Recycling Drop-off Event for Lexington & Richland counties, Oct. 3rd



Lexington and Richland County residents are encouraged to recycle electronics, hazardous waste, scrap metal, tires, cooking oil, to have paper documents shredded on site free of charge and to ring household goods to be reused by Goodwill Industries on Saturday, **October 3, from 8 a.m. until 12 noon** at Irmo High School, located at: 6671 St. Andrews Rd. Columbia.

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 10/1 Blake Beckum | 10/8 Logan Moser | 10/17 Laura Lambdin | 10/25 Ann Byess |
| Bob Derrick | 10/9 Kevin Handell | Houston Teague | Richard Hornsby |
| Mary Taylor | Susan Matthews | 10/18 Brett Sheppard | Chris Wicker |
| 10/2 Jeffrey Anderson | 10/10 Vernon Russell Jr. | 10/19 Tristan Fender | 10/26 Peggy Derrick |
| Wanda Edmonds | 10/11 Calvin Cammann | Sherri Frank | Amy Harmon |
| Braxton Seeby | 10/12 Cameron Beckum | 10/20 Addie Hendrix | Bobby Yarborough |
| 10/3 Lacey Lawrence | Donna Hornsby | Brenda Newman | 10/27 Christian Selzer |
| Thomas Walsh | Ed Ulmer | 10/21 Jennifer Crossman | Mary Taylor |
| 10/4 Wendi Walsh | 10/13 Dargan Gore | Donna Smith | 10/28 Kersten Epting |
| 10/5 Bobby Epting | 10/14 Phil Gaines | 10/22 Judy Culler | George Renwick |
| Michael Lyons | Gina Krantz | Jim Looney | John Smiley Jr. |
| 10/6 Peggy Chavis | 10/15 Deanna Brewer | Glenn Williams | 10/29 Matthew Welch |
| Jack Landry | Jackson Handell | 10/23 Jacob Jibaja | 10/30 Jane Brailsford |
| Elizabeth Murray | Morgan Roland | Anne Neely | Kimberly Rauch |
| 10/7 Stephanie Akers | 10/16 Ryan Henson | Jonathan Trezoglou | 10/31 Connie Brock |
| Tom Burner | Joan Laisure | 10/24 Jody Huffstetler | Caroline Ford |
| Stephen McCormack | | Helen Thomas | Will Hahne |

Member News:



Gifts in memory of:

Al Keck
 Agnes Rogers Circle

Glenda Matthews
 Buddy & Lynn Brewer

Gifts in honor of:

Wesley Bumgarner
 John & Joyce Bumgarner

Chris Wicker
 John & Joyce Bumgarner

Welcome new member:

Sarah Trezoglou



Welcome
 to
 Our LUMC
 Church
 Family

New Charitable Deduction for Non-Itemizers

Understand the New Charitable Deduction

Church leaders know that a person should not need an enticement to give, but it certainly may guide a person to take that first step. One provision in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act permits eligible individuals to deduct \$300 of qualified charitable contributions as an "above-the-line" deduction. Eligible individuals are those who do not itemize deductions on their income tax returns. This provision is for tax years beginning in 2020.

This new "above-the-line" deduction is limited to cash contributions only. Non-cash contributions, such as clothing or other items, are not allowed. However, non-cash contributions are still allowed for those who do itemize their returns.

As we approach the end of the year, this is a great time to inform your church community of this opportunity. While these changes may seem small, they could start a person on the road to a higher level of stewardship in the future.

For more information, [please refer to IRS Publication 526, Charitable Contributions.](#)

Simeon May, CPA, CCA, CAE,
 Manager of Client Accounting and Advisory Services
 SST CPAs
www.sstcpa.com



| Week 38 |
|--------------|
| 9/27/2020 |
| \$11,485.00 |
| \$20,616.00 |
| \$783,408.00 |
| \$660,809.00 |
| \$647,888.00 |
| \$12,921.00 |

Lexington United Methodist Church

309 E Main St.
Lexington, SC 29072



We're on the web:
<http://www.lexumcsc.com>



lexumc



@LUMC_SC



Lexington United Methodist

Church office:

803-359-6838

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is published monthly

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| | | |
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